Yours could be the winning entry!

1997 Voting Slogan Contest Begins March 3rd

The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) is pleased to announce the start of the 1997 Voting Slogan Contest. This biennial contest is sponsored by the FVAP in its efforts to expand public awareness and voter participation among *UOCAVA* citizens-- members of the Armed Forces, their families, and all overseas citizens. The contest begins Monday, March 3, 1997.

Submissions will be judged on originality and motivational value by a panel of independent judges. There is no limit to the number of entries a participant may submit. Enter as many slogans as often as you wish. Slogans must be typed or legibly hand-written on a regular 8 1/2 x 11 inch sheet of paper.

Please include your full name, (service, if military), mailing address, daytime telephone number and fax number. Send entries to Federal Voting Assistance Program, Attn: Voting Slogan Contest, Room 1B457, The Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-1155. The deadline for submission is June 30, 1997. You may also e-mail your entry to vote@fvap.gov.

The winning slogan will be used in the 1998-99 media campaign to increase voter awareness among U.S. citizens, as well as on motivational posters and in voter manuals, audio visual materials and other FVAP publications. The author of the winning entry will be awarded a certificate of recognition from the Secretary of Defense.

Second place through fifth place winners, receive honorable mention and the Military Service with the highest participation rate will also receive special recognition from the Department of Defense.

HM1 Roberto A. Small, of the U.S. Navy, submitted the winning entry in the 1995 Contest, "Your Vote Is the One that Matters!"

Submit your entry by June 30, 1997 and you could be one of this year's winners!

Working for UOCAVA Citizens

FVAP's Objectives For 1997

vote@fvap.gov

The FVAP has a new e-mail address effective immediately. Please forward all future electronic correspondence to this new address. Thank you!

In This Issue

The New Year is off to a busy start at the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP)!

In 1996, participation in the general election by thousands of citizens covered by the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)* was facilitated through FVAP support, resources and services. In 1997, the Program's customer service mission continues, as it shifts gears to focus on areas that will allow it to better serve its customers in future elections, including those state and local races scheduled for this year (see *Calendar*, pg. 3).
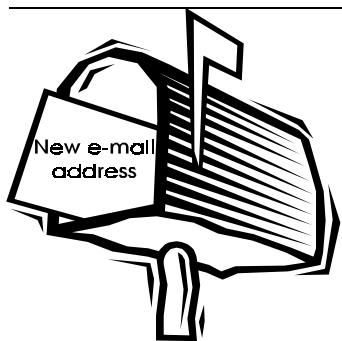
The FVAP will analyze 1996 Post Election Survey data and prepare a formal report for submission to the President and Congress, as mandated by the *UOCAVA*. In addition to providing data for the report, survey results are critical in designing new Program products and services, and improving upon existing ones, to better serve FVAP customers.

In the past, survey feedback has been critical in determining the need for a monthly newsletter (the publication you are reading at this moment!), establishing the DoD Voting Information Center (VIC, see pg. 4 for details) and expand-ing Program outreach to more overseas citizens. This is why completion of the randomly-distributed survey instruments is crucial to the FVAP's future success in more effectively meeting customer needs. Preliminary survey results will be available in the Spring.

The FVAP also uses survey feedback to determine which areas of state and territorial election law should be amended to facilitate further voting by *UOCAVA* citizens. In December 1996, legislative initiative letters were sent to 55 Secretaries of State

(**1997**, from pg. 1) and Directors of Elections in all the states and territories, asking for their support in improving election laws during this year's legislative session. Throughout the year, the FVAP will work with these

During the 1997 legislative session, the FVAP will also work with state and local election officials and state legislators on ways of improving election laws and procedures.

officials on ways of enacting these proposals.

The Federal Voting Assistance Program works with the states to promote, among other initiatives, a minimum of 45 days mail transit time for election materials; adoption of procedures to allow for the electronic transmission (faxing) of election materials; and expanded use of the Federal Write In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) for elections other than those for Federal office and as a simultaneous registration request and voted ballot.

The FVAP will also be updating the information and printing the 1998-99 *Voting Assistance Guide* (*VAG*) which will be available to the more

than 6 million potential voters covered by the *UOCAVA*. The *VAG* is the primary source of information for citizens covered by the *Act* to understand the procedures for registering and voting in their state or territory of legal voting residence, and critical to any voting assistance effort.

Production of the *Voting Assistance Guide* requires extensive coordination with state and local government officials as well as representatives of military and overseas citizen organizations. The new *VAG* will be available on CD-ROM and through the FVAP's site on the World Wide Web at *www.fvap.gov*, as is the current edition of the *Guide*.

The FVAP will also be expanding its offering of products and services via the Internet. This is another exciting area of growth for the FVAP as it moves towards providing additional on-line information and facilitating the voting pro-

cess further through various applications of this rapidly-expanding technology. (The FVAP launched its site on the World Wide Web in September 1996 and has so far recorded over 6,500 hits). The site provides information on the Program including an on-line version of the *Guide*, frequently asked questions, and a direct link to Secretaries of State and Directors of Elections, where available. Links to other organizations of interest to *UOCAVA* citizens can be obtained through the FVAP's site as well.
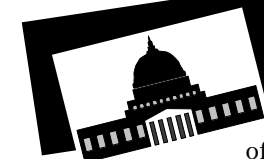
The 1997 Voting Slogan contest is also a key Program objective this year. See the lead article on page 1 for additional contest details.

1997 promises to be a productive year for the FVAP as it forges ahead with its efforts to facilitate the voting process for the more than 6 million citizens covered by the *UOCAVA*- members of the Uniformed Services,

the merchant marine, their family members, and all overseas citizens. If you have a suggestion or comment relating to the FVAP's '97 mission, please contact the Federal Voting Assistance Program on the numbers listed at the bottom of this page.

Voting Assistance Officers "To Do" This Month

[ ] Encourage participation in the 1997 Voting Slogan Contest by all *UOCAVA* citizens. Participants can enter as many entries as they wish. See pg. 1 for details.

[ ] Cut and post the 1997 Election Calendar (pg. 3) in plain view of all eligible voters. Provide your name and phone number for further information. Remind citizens that most states require a new FPCA each calendar year.

[ ] Make sure you are on the distribution list for FVAP voting newsreleases and this newsletter. Marilyn Reck of the FVAP is the point of contact for amendments to the distribution list.

[ ] Complete and submit the FVAP's Post-Election Survey as soon as possible, if you received one of the randomly distributed forms. If you did not, feel free to submit your own feedback by contacting the FVAP at the numbers below.

YOUR VOTE IS THE ONE THAT MATTERS ✔

1997 Election Calendar

Election Type	Location & Offices (if statewide)	Primary (if applicable)	General Election
Mayoral	Boston, Massachusetts	SEPT 23	NOV 4
Mayoral	Buffalo, New York	SEPT 2	NOV 4
Mayoral	Charlotte, North Carolina	SEPT 23	NOV 4
Mayoral	Cincinnati, Ohio	---	NOV 4
Mayoral	Cleveland, Ohio	SEPT 30	NOV 4
Mayoral	Columbus, Ohio	MAY 6	NOV 4
Mayoral	Houston, Texas	---	NOV 4
Mayoral	Los Angeles, California	APR 8	JUN 3
Mayoral	Miami, Florida	NOV 4	NOV 13
Mayoral	Minneapolis, Minnesota	SEPT 9	NOV 4
Statewide	**New Jersey** [Governor, State Senate, General Assembly]	JUN 3	NOV 4
Mayoral	New York City, New York	SEPT 9	NOV 4
Mayoral	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	MAR 18	APR 1
Mayoral	Omaha, Nebraska	APR 1	MAY 13
Mayoral	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	MAY 20	NOV 4
Mayoral	San Antonio, Texas	---	MAY 3
Mayoral	Seattle, Washington	SEPT 16	NOV 4
Mayoral	Toledo, Ohio	SEPT 9	NOV 4
Mayoral	Tucson, Arizona	SEPT 16	NOV 4
Statewide	**Virginia** [Governor, Lieutenant Governor Attorney General House of Delegates]	JUN 10*	NOV 4

DSN 223-6500, Commercial 703-693-6500

Contact the 105th Congress

Take a more active role in your democracy by accessing the DoD Voting Information Center (VIC) to connect directly to the office of your State Governor U.S. Senators, U.S. Representative, and State Chief Election Official. If calling from overseas, keep in mind the time-zone for Washington D.C. or the State you are calling. As always, callers may hear recorded messages from their incumbents in the offices listed above if the individual has left one on the system.

Callers in the Armed Forces may contact their respective Service Voting Action Officer and overseas U.S. citizens may contact the State Department's Voting Action Officer in Washington, D.C., through the VIC as well. Contact numbers for the SVAOs are listed on page three of every *VIN*. Callers with specific voting questions or supply needs for forms or other information may leave a message for their SVAO either directly or through the VIC.

The VIC is also capable of recognizing speech. It recognizes spoken numbers from zero to nine and words such as "yes," "no" and "oh," which may be used for "zero." If someone is calling from a rotary phone or from overseas he or she may opt for speech recognition to access the Center by first "telling" the system his or her state.

Callers tell the Center the numbers which correspond to the state abbreviations on the telephone pad or rotary dial. For example, if they wish to access the information for the state of Texas, callers would simply say the word "eight" and then "nine" which correspond to "T" and "X" respectively on the telephone dial. The numbers on the dial correspond to the following letters: 2 - ABC; 3 - DEF; 4 - GHI; 5 - JKL; 6 - MNO; 7 - PRS; 8 - TUV; and 9 - WXY. Since there is no "Z", callers wishing to hear information from Arizona should use the number two (2) and then one (1).

Catch the latest voting news on the World Wide Web @ http://www.fvap.gov 1997 Election Information and **links** to State Officials, Military Services and Overseas Citizen Organizations

Ombudsman Service

If you cannot resolve your voting concern locally, it's good to know the FVAP is just a phone call away!

In the U.S. 1-800-438-8683	
Antigua	1-800-326-0220
Australia	0014-800-128509
Bahamas	180-995-09-20
Bahrain	800-621
Barbados	800-534-2104
Belgium	078-111-455
Bermuda	800-623-0077
Brazil	000-811-926-5585
Canada	800-995-0920
Chile	00-020-3071
Colombia	980-12-0896
Costa Rica	0-800-011-0125
Denmark	800-10-169
Dominican Rep.	800-751-7131
Finland	9800-156-284
France	0-800-900-156
Germany	013-081-9277
Greece	008-001-22-586
Hong Kong	800-6984
Hungary	00-800-11-158
Ireland	1-800-557-083
Israel	177-102-4012
Italy	1-678-72-444
Indonesia	00-800-1-923-3685
Japan	0031-11-2429
Liechtenstein	1-155-4514
Luxembourg	0-800-2499
Malaysia	800-2170
Mexico	95-800-010-1438
Monaco	0-59-00-156
Netherlands	06-022-2499
Neth. Antilles	001-800-753-0767
New Zealand	0-800-44-0799
Norway	800-12093
Panama	0083-28027-4197
Philippines	1-800-116-0009
Portugal	0501-8-13-035
San Marino	1-678-72-444
Singapore	800-1300-210
South Korea	0078-14-800-0203
Spain	900-93-1108
Sweden	020-793-503
Switzerland	155-4514
Taiwan	0080-10-3153
Thailand	001-800-1-1-923-6685
Trinidad&Tobago	1-800-934-7340
United Kingdom	0-800-895-7403
Uruguay	000-411-923-7985
Vatican City	1678-72-4444

Close Election Update

Absentee ballots played a critical role in determining the outcome of the following race on November 5, 1996:

☑ **Oklahoma State Senate, Dist. 49**

Don Williams (D) lost by 1,268 votes to Owen Laughlin (R) in a race where 2,041 absentee ballots were cast. Owen received 1,072 absentee votes to Williams's 969.

Absentee ballots made up almost 8% of the total votes cast and almost twice as much as the total vote differential!

Your vote is the one that matters ☑